

TESTIMONY  
Kailua Neighborhood Board  
Bill 11 CD1, City Council Hearing  
May 9, 2012

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Aloha: My name is Chuck Prentiss, Chairperson of the Kailua Neighborhood Board speaking on behalf of the Board. A big Mahalo to you and Councilmember Anderson for bringing your meeting to the Kailua/Kaneohe area.

I speak in favor of Bill 11 CD1. Our 19-member Board has been deeply involved in this issue. For all too many years we have asked the City administrations to follow their own rules concerning the prohibition of commercial activities on public recreational property, especially Kailua Beach Park. We have also asked that no commercial buses be allowed East of Kalapawai Market because there are no commercial destinations past there. But our requests have always fallen on deaf ears.

With the cooperation of the Kailua Police Department, we were successful in having a person convicted in court for renting kayaks in the Kailua Beach Park without a permit. But because of the City's reticence, and a blatant disregard for both public property and existing regulations by certain businesses, commercial activities have proliferated to the extent that the over 45,000 taxpaying residents of Kailua, as well as the thousands of visitors that we welcome into our community annually, are besieged by some who have little respect for the needs of our residential community and the visitors.

Kailua and Kalama Beach Parks are public recreational properties not commercial shopping centers, in fact, they are zoned P-2 Preservation. Furthermore, they are located in an area that you have designated as a residential community on the Oahu General Plan, and the Koolau-poko Sustainable Communities Plan. The General Plan designates other parts of the island as resort destinations where regulated commercial beach activities are permitted.

The General Plan recognizes the important need for local residents to live their lives and raise their children in locations compatible with residential living. Bill 11 represents a clarification of the existing plans, procedures, laws, intent and desires of the Islandwide community. Let's not make a mockery out of our strategic planning process.

This Bill will also not force anyone out of business. For example, anyone can have a kayak rental business that is conducted from a commercial property in Kailua which rents to locals or visitors who can take the kayak to the beach. But for them to use scarce beach space for constant delivery and pickup of hundreds of kayaks everyday, conduct lessons for kite boards, paddle boards, surf boards, etc. is totally incompatible and inappropriate outside of designated resort destination areas.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board strongly urges you to support Bill 11 CD1, and adopt it at the earliest possible time. Mahalo!

Chuck Prentiss, Ph.D.  
Chairperson  
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